

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Duxbury Clipper

## Arrival of *Spirit of Massachusetts* Kicks Off Opening of the Bay

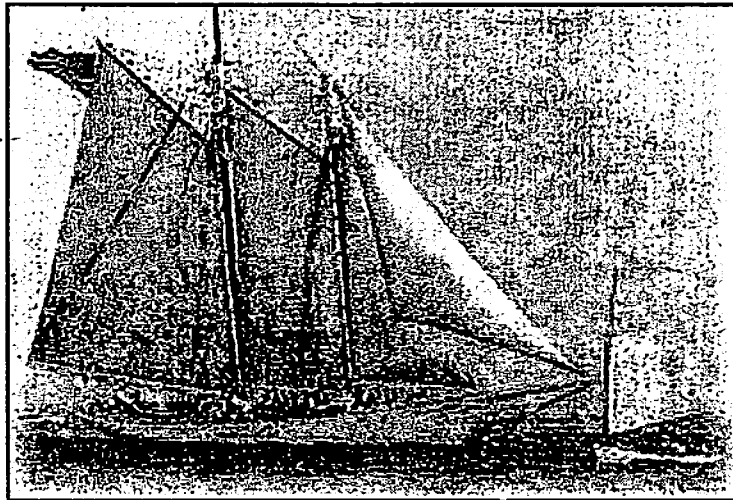
By PAULA MAXWELL

The waterfront is the place to be this weekend for a host of exciting events.

Not since the town's 350th celebration has the *Spirit of Massachusetts* graced our local shore, but this weekend's arrival of the celebrated tall ship will draw the community to the kick off of the Duxbury Bay Maritime School's third annual Opening of the Bay festivities.

Duxbury Bay Maritime School Director Ned Lawson said the *Spirit of Massachusetts* will be the focal point of a weekend of activities.

"We see the 'Opening of the Bay' this year as a celebration of the success that the Maritime School has had in connecting



The Spirit of Massachusetts

our community to Duxbury Bay by attracting lots of people to the waterfront for programs such as sailing, boating, marine ecology and boatbuilding."

The *Spirit* will be docked on

the south side of the town floats at Mattaskeesett extending in length to the DBMS floats. Activities ranging from campus

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and waterfront tours to a silent auction and waterfront party will continue throughout the weekend.

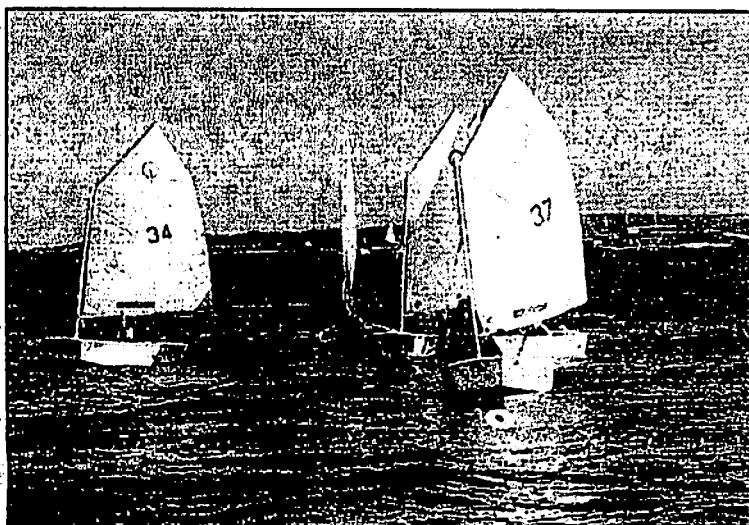
Last year, over 8,000 people attended Opening of the Bay festivities when the schooner *Ernestina* docked in Snug Harbor.

This year's Memorial Day weekend celebration will be highlighted by a host of activities beginning Thursday, May 25, when the *Spirit* sails from Boston at 6 am and arrives in Duxbury at 5 pm. Bus service will be provided from Duxbury at a cost of \$5 per person.

On Friday during the day, students will sail aboard the *Spirit*. The two, three-hour sailing trips for children at \$25 per person, are nearly sold out.

At 3 pm, official welcoming ceremonies will feature local and state officials and the Duxbury High School marching band. Those activities will be followed by a silent auction featuring many unique items to benefit the school programs.

On Friday evening there will be a dockside reception sponsored by Plymouth Savings Bank featuring entertainment by the O'Reilly's, the Snugtones, the Pete Collins Band, and bagpipers. Ship tours and silent auction will also be featured. Cost of the reception is \$75 per person. The evening will feature fine food catered by the Winsor House and a full bar handled by Mark and Linda Collins.



Junior sailors will take to the Bay again this weekend in their "Optis"

Saturday will be the family festival sponsored by Talbots from 10 to 3 pm featuring a New England Aquarium stage show for kids. Their new Tidepool Review is a fun hands on program using an assortment of child size tidepool creatures such as sea stars, hermit crabs and periwinkles. Audience members of all ages are invited to cradle a crab or gently pick up a sea urchin. Ecology exhibits are also on tap with over 20 participants offering hands on activities including demonstrations in wooden boatbuilding, Nantucket basket weaving, and knot tying. There will also be exhibits relating to Duxbury Maritime history, DBMS fleet demonstrations, face painting, ship tours, harbor tours a silent auction featuring concert tickets, weekend getaways and other unique items, and live entertainment by Watson Reid and Americana as well as his Majesties's 5th Regiment of Foot.

Included in the fun will be estuary animals and a giant stuffed replica of a flounder named "Flexi", which can be opened to have its anatomy explored. There will also be life-

saving demonstrations, kids microscope adventures, coloring contests and other activities.

At 3 pm there will be a Duxbury Bay row with pilot gigs and at 5 pm final bids for the silent auction.

On Sunday at 8 am the *Spirit of Massachusetts* will set sail for Boston arriving around 5 pm.

The *Spirit* is a 125 foot two masted schooner modeled after the *Fredonia*, a 19th century Gloucester fishing schooner renowned for beautiful appearance and speed. Demos Consulting is the *Spirit's* sponsor for the event.

Event coordinators Chairman Kim Cully, assisted by Dolores Savage and Joanne Hebert have lined up a full itinerary available through the DBMS website at [www.duxbayms.com](http://www.duxbayms.com).

Lawson said that this year's DBMS summer program will involve over 600 children and adults in various sailing, boating and marine ecology programs. The school's fleet now numbers over 90 sailboats.

Among the highlights of this year's DBMS activities are involvement with a new sailing club at the high school, which will be a school funded DHS sports team next year. Some 48 kids from Camp Wing will sail this summer as a result of a \$30,000 grant from State Street Corn

New England Aquarium, which recently opened a new marine mammal rehabilitation facility on the grounds of Battelle, will help run the DBMS marine ecology programs this summer.

Another feature of the DBMS offerings are rentals of Flying Scots on an hourly or seasonal basis for qualified sailors.

The DBMS was honored by the US Sailing's Community Sailing Council as the best new program of its kind when it opened in 1998.